

United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service Office of Scientific Quality Review CONTRACT JUSTIFICATION	National Program	
	Panel Dates From	To

The nature of this review process requires specialized opinions and/or professional or technical advice. It is essential to obtain outside points of view in order to avoid too limited judgement on the merits of the projects. Further, in accordance with Public Law 105-185, opinions of noted experts and non-Federal participation of limited duration are required. It is, therefore, requested that a contract with the expert named below be awarded.

(Reviewer/Panelist's Full Name)

! is an expert in the field of _____

! is needed to review project plans received under the National Program Panel noted above, coordinated by the USDA/REE/ARS/OA/Office of Scientific Quality Review.

The sum of _____ (_____ at _____ day(s)) is considered fair and reasonable and clearly in the best interest of the Government. Also, the sum of _____ is paid for preparing for the panel meeting. Payment will be made at the completion of the review process.

(OSQR Peer Review Quality Officer)

(Date)

*Public Law 105-185, June 23, 1998. An Act To ensure that federally funded agricultural research, extension, and education address high-priority concerns with national or multistate significance, to reform, extend, and eliminate certain agricultural research programs, and for other purposes. Title I, Sec. 103(b) Advisory Board Review-On an annual basis, the Advisory Board shall review-(1) the relevance to the priorities established under Sec. 102(a) of the funding of all agricultural research, extension, or education activities conducted or funded by the Department; Sec. 103(d)(1) Peer Review Procedures-The Secretary shall establish procedures that ensure scientific peer review of all research activities conducted by the Department. Sec. 103(d)(2) Review Panel Required-As part of the procedures established under paragraph(1), a review panel shall verify, at least once every five years, that each research activity of the Department and research conducted under each research program of the Department has scientific merit and relevance. Sec. 104(d)(4) Composition of Review Panel-(A) in General-A review panel shall be composed of individuals with scientific expertise, a majority of whom are not employees of the agency whose research is being reviewed. Sec. 104(d)(4)(B) Scientists from Colleges and